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Everybody needs you? Nobody wants you?
Must be middle age.

SANDWICH

Created by Deborah Klika

You know what's hard about being a woman in your forties?

Everyone needs you but no one wants you.

SANDWICH takes a humorous look at the lives of four main characters each trying to define themselves in a post-feminist world: SUZIE, wife, mother of three, her mother DIANA, best friend TONI and recently retrenched neighbour, WILL.

A comedy about life in the suburbs with a twist of animation.

Its *Absolutely Fabulous* meets *Modern Family*.

Suzie Andrews grew up in the '80s when girls were expected to have careers. She studied journalism, dreaming of rising to the top of the opinion pages and fulfilling the feminist dream. But before the job had time to become a career, family came along and with them suburban life. Having watched her mother, the trail blazing, passionate **Diana**, avoid parenthood and deal with divorce like most people make strategic career changes, Suzie knew she wanted marriage and family to succeed as much as the career thing.

The core demographic is forty-something women, balancing work, marriage and family, but the series encompasses the lives of 17-70 year olds. The timeslot is 8.00/8.30 pm. Sprinkled through each episode are snippets of animation underscoring a satirical perspective of life in the suburbs, often viewed through the eyes of seventeen year old Josh (but sometimes the enigmatic Will).

The pilot begins with seventeen year old son Josh getting his driver's licence; while anxious about this new phase in both their lives, Suzie strikes out to forge a new life and to find out if she will be anything other than daughter, wife, mother or netball coach. With emotionally dependant Diana living down the street, avoiding the responsibility of her elderly mother, recently separated best friend and ex-corporate warrior **Toni** ruling the suburbs, along with **Will** facing a significant birthday, Suzie finds it's not as easy as she imagined.

The PILOT script currently reads at just under thirty minutes. This episode uses two of the three main sets: Suzie's family room/kitchen and the café/delicatessen. There are two animation sequences, being depictions of how Josh's view of how he sees his relationship with Suzie. Suggested storylines follow the list of characters.

MAIN CHARACTERS

SUZIE ANDREWS, 43, ex journalist, tries to be all things to all people, mother of Josh, 17, Oliver, 14, Annabel, 10 and wife of Andrew Kravitz (never seen, or only in silhouette). Suzie's mother is

DIANA ANDREWS, a 68 year old divorcee. Avoids responsibility of any kind, primarily by being a chronic problem solver of other people's lives. A feminist academic with an outlandish dress sense, Diana has recently been forced to downsize and now lives down the street from Suzie, depending on her for emotional, and at times, financial support.

TONI FISCHER, 43, Suzie's best friend from school and president of everything including the netball club. Recently separated and trying to hold herself together. Control freak.

WILL ENGLISH, 54, Suzie's neighbour. Enigmatic, yet sardonic. Suffers from bouts of depression. Recently retrenched, house husband married to Sandra Jenkins, local real estate guru and father of sixteen year old daughter Hannah. His secret passion is drawing, in particular animation.

SUPPORT CHARACTERS

JOSH KRAVITZ, Suzie's 17 year old son. Charming, cynical and wary of commitment. Encouraged by his grandfather, Karel Kravitz, he's always got a scheme going or new ways to make money. Drawing is a passion he shares with Will, but he never finishes any of his projects.

GREG PETERSON, 49, Suzie's gardener, friend from uni, gay. Either running away or recovering from a broken heart.

KAREL KRAVITZ, 75 year old father-in-law who lives with Suzie's family from time to time. President of the local Progress Association (aka as a front for the local Labour party branch), widowed, with a shady past; loves to listen to shock jocks and sprout, what he thinks, are old fashioned values.

CHERYLE LEE KRAVITZ, 33, Suzie's Asian sister-in-law, married to Andrew's brother and the apple of Karel's eye. A thirty-something career achieving arts femocrat, fashionista and confirmed city type, Cheryle finds the suburbs an aberration.

REGULAR CHARACTERS

SANDRA JENKINS, 58, married to Will, mother of sixteen year old Hannah and career woman personified. Smart clothes with shoes and car to match.

JO, 55, the owner of the local deli/café.

NANNA, 89, Diana's unseen mother. We may see her as a silhouette or in edge of frame.

Sandwich is a studio-based comedy about life in the suburbs between the hours of 9 and 3. There are three main sets: Suzie's family/living room/kitchen, the local deli/cafe and Sandra Jenkins' Real Estate.

FUTURE EPISODES

At the end of the pilot episode Suzie has been offered a job with Sandra Jenkins' real estate agency.

'Have you ever typed palm cards?'

Now that Suzie is working she decides to set up an online grocery account trying to avoid reading Josh's underdone history presentation. Diana has decided to become a motivational speaker and comes to Suzie for ideas as well as to borrow some palm cards. When the online shopping fails and she is unable to get more palm cards, Suzie finds herself up all night cutting out cardboard and typing palm cards – for both Diana and Josh.

TAG: Josh thinks the rough palm cards leave a lot to be desired and Suzie needs to work on her spelling.

The Christmas Party

Everyone gets invited to a Christmas Party, except Suzie. Instead she decides to make up a party. It ends up on Facebook and now everyone wants to come.

So what do you do?

After attending a work function with Andrew, Suzie goes on a mission to find the best response to the question "so what do you do?" She decides to write a series of angry letters to the local paper only to discover that she has mixed them up with the ads for the Jenkins real estate agency, causing sales to plummet.

Sisterly Lies

Suzie attempts to warm the frosty air between her and her career focussed sister-in-law, Cheryle, who is about to land a new job at the film council, where they mistakenly think she is gay. Suzie is horrified when Cheryle asks Toni to be her "date" to a function. When Cheryle's husband rings Suzie to find out where Cheryle is, Suzie discovers that lying only makes things worse. It's Diana's turn to host her feminist discussion group and she wants to use Suzie's place.

The Andrews

Will gets a commission to do a cartoon strip. It is a satirical view of Suzie and Toni's life. To Toni's horror they become famous and discover they are only seen as caricatures. They attempt to "break out" of the strip.

(this idea could be expanded over a couple of episodes)

Careers Night

Suzie helps Will with a presentation for a new job. While her husband Andrew has been asked to be the main speaker for careers night at the boys' school, Suzie ponders her own life through her creative writing course. When the piece wins the class prize, Diana decides to have it published in the university paper, bringing a flood of unwanted invitations to speak at careers nights.

The Prodigal Son

It's Josh's end of year formal and he has forgotten to hire a suit. As Suzie rushes about trying to find a suit in formal season, she tries to keep on top of the work at Sandra Jenkins' Real Estate Agency. Diana is excited by the return of her son, Suzie's brother, Scott, and his upwardly mobile wife, Marylou, from overseas – accidentally planning a family dinner the same night as the formal.

He loves me, he loves me not.

It's Valentine's Day and Diana confides in Suzie about the great love of her life. Toni decides to get a toy boy to show off to her ex husband. When Suzie devises a plan to stop them both doing something they will regret for the rest of their lives, she finds her efforts are not greatly appreciated. It's Will and Sandra's wedding anniversary and Will wants to make it a special night.

Sales are up

Sandra Jenkins, real estate guru, decides to send Suzie on a sales course, to help with the recent upturn in the market. The experience causes Suzie to start talking like a real estate sales person in her daily life. Having been awful to a retail sales assistant years ago, Diana comes face to face with the same one who is now her legal counsel in her battle to save her position at the university.